

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING DR. WIL- LIAM RANSOM WOOD

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I send this resolution to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 195) expressing the sense of the Senate concerning Dr. William Ransom Wood.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I express my gratitude to the secretary for the minority for clearing this resolution so quickly, and I ask for its consideration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution and its preamble are agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 195) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 195

Whereas Dr. William Ransom Wood's tireless dedication and wisdom have earned him honorable distinction for his work in the city of Fairbanks, the State of Alaska, and the Nation;

Whereas Dr. Wood served his country with distinction in battle during World War II as a captain in the United States Navy;

Whereas Dr. Wood served the people of Alaska as president of the University of Alaska, chairman of the American Cancer Society, vice president of the Alaska Boy Scout Council, Member of the Alaska Business Advisory Council, Chairman of the Alaska Heart Association, and numerous other organizations;

Whereas Dr. Wood served the people of Fairbanks as mayor, chairman of the Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation, President of Fairbanks Rotary Club, and in many other capacities;

Whereas the city of Fairbanks, the State of Alaska, and the Nation continue to benefit from Dr. Wood's outstanding leadership and vision;

Whereas Dr. Wood is the executive director of Festival Fairbanks which desires to commemorate the centennial of Fairbanks, Alaska with a pedestrian bridge which shall serve as a reminder to remember and respect the builders of the Twentieth Century; and

Whereas it shall also be in Dr. Wood's words, "a memorial to the brave indigenous people. Who came before and persisted through hardships, generation after generation. The Centennial Bridge is a tribute to their stamina and ability to cope with changing times." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate urges the Secretary of Transportation Rod-

ney Slater to designate the Fairbanks, Alaska Riverwalk Centennial Bridge community connector project as the Dr. William Ransom Wood Centennial Bridge.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, pursuant to the consent agreement of Friday, October 1, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of judicial nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The nominations will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Ronnie L. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri; Brian Theodore Stewart, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah; and Raymond C. Fisher, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we have a number of judges to discuss tonight:

There is Brian Theodore Stewart—I see the distinguished Senator from Utah on the floor, who I am sure will be speaking of him.

There is Justice Ronnie L. White—I see the distinguished Senator from Missouri, who will be speaking about him and has specific reserved time for that.

And there is the nomination of Raymond C. Fisher.

Utilizing some of the time reserved to me and the distinguished chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I will make sure that whatever amount of time the distinguished Senator from Utah wishes will be available to him.

I would like to start by mentioning how we got here. On Friday, the Democratic leader was able to get an agreement from the majority leader scheduling an up-or-down vote on Ray Fisher, Ted Stewart, and Ronnie White tomorrow afternoon, with some debate this evening. I thank the Democratic leader for his assistance in obtaining those agreements. I know that it was not easy to obtain a date certain for a vote on the Fisher nomination and I am especially grateful that at long last, after 27 months, the Senate will finally be voting on the White nomination.

I begin with the Fisher nomination. Raymond Fisher is a distinguished Californian. After being confirmed by the Senate in 1977, he has served as Associate Attorney General of the United States. He served on the Los Angeles Police Commission from 1995 to 1997. He chaired it from 1996 to 1997. In 1990, he was deputy general counsel for the

Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department, better known as the Christopher Commission, chaired by Warren Christopher.

He received his undergraduate degree in 1961 from the University of California at Santa Barbara; And he received his law degree from Stanford Law School in 1966, where he was president of the Stanford Law Review. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable J. Skelly Wright on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and for the Honorable William Brennan on the U.S. Supreme Court. In other words, a lawyer's lawyer.

For almost 30 years, he was a litigation attorney in private practice in Los Angeles at Tuttle & Taylor and then as the managing partner of the Los Angeles offices of Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe. He is a highly respected member of the bar and a dedicated public servant.

He has the very strong support of both California Senators. He received a rating of well qualified—in other words, the highest rating—from the American Bar Association. He has the support of Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, the Los Angeles police department, the National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

He was nominated back on March 15, 1999. He had a hearing before the Judiciary Committee and in July he was promptly and favorably reported. I do not know why his nomination was not taken up immediately and confirmed before the August recess, but it is still here and will now receive consideration. The Senate should vote to confirm him, as I fully expect we will.

I note that the Senate has before it ready for final confirmation vote two other judge nominees to the same court, the Ninth Circuit, Judge Richard Paez and Marsha Berzon. Also pending before the Judiciary Committee are the nominations of Ron Gould, first nominated in 1997; Barry Goode, first nominated in June 1998; and James Duffy to the Ninth Circuit. It is a Court of Appeals that remains one quarter vacant with 7 vacancies among its 28 authorized judges.

We should be voting up or down on the Paez and Berzon nominations today. I think we need to fulfill our duty not only to each of these outstanding nominees as a matter of conscience and decency on our part, but also for the tens of millions of people who are served by the Ninth Circuit. Unfortunately, as was brought out Friday, a few Republican Senators—anonymously—are still holding up action on these other important nominations.

To his credit, the majority leader has come to the floor and said he will try to find a way for the two nominations to be considered by the Senate. I know that if the majority leader wishes the nominees will come to a vote. The way is to call them to a fair up-or-down vote. We should find a way to do that as soon as possible.